

Defenders of St. John's Bay

Working to Protect the Bay - permanently

And- Why we need you!

This has been a fight years in the making. It was proposed as a feasibility study by Parks and Rec in 2020 - but it was placed on the budget by our mayor. In July of 2021, a specialist from the DNR pointed out the damage the proposed pier would cause in 2021 and required an application be submitted. In 2023 the permit was granted by the DNR completely ignoring the DNR's own findings that the bay is a protected ecosystem.

Although we have been able to provide enough opposition to keep the pier from being constructed, ***the project could re-appear at any time.*** As long as the permit is in place another mayor (including this new one who has supported the pier at every vote as an Alderperson) could place it back on the budget and the battle will begin again.

The DNR has agreed with our argument against the pier permit and has granted a legal hearing to reconsider the permit.

In preparation, the non-profit organization Defenders of St. John's Bay has

- Raised a significant sum of money
- Hired an Environmental Attorney at reduced rates
- Hired an expert in freshwater systems to complete a study near the proposed site with significant findings to be shared at the hearing
- Secured background information
- Submitted technical and legal arguments which have led to the granting of the hearing

We have 2 main arguments (nothing else can or will be considered):

1. Whether Permit Application IP-SE-2022-68-02139 met the standards set forth in Wis. Stat. § 30.12(3m), or whether any additional permit conditions are necessary to protect the public interest in Nagawicka Lake.
2. Whether the proposed pier and boat slips constitute a reasonable use of the riparian property. *We submit that in both cases the answer is no.*

Point 1: The standards were not met by the permit application.

Although St. John's Bay was already protected by the DNR; this protection was ignored when the permit was granted.

Point 2: We submit the pier is *not* a reasonable use of this riparian property.

Our Attorney has

- Worked between the DNR/City of Delafield to coordinate witnesses, hearing dates/times places - they had to renegotiate all of this when the DNR's attorney had a medical issue.(The delay was good because it prevented any construction - but ***don't be fooled. Delay does not mean it will go away forever***).
- ***Researched background information/preparing and presenting a legal request for a challenge to the Pier Permit - We do not have that expertise. Her work got us this far.***
- ***Gained access to records*** via an Open Records Request (and then gleaming pertinent information from those reams of records).

This is a big fight - but we stand a very good chance to have the permit revoked - or at the very least - change the location of the pier (the city never worked in good faith to look at any other location). We must not quit now.

Bottom Line: This has been a Marathon.

We're at mile 20.

It's called "The Wall" - and we need to break through the wall and cross the finish line where that pier permit is revoked.

Our homes and the lake are well worth it. Together we can do this.

If we don't follow through with all our might for this Contested Case Hearing, there's a very good chance this pier could be installed - our bay and our lake will be deeply and negatively impacted. Property values of all riparian home owners will decline appreciably as a result.

Please help - It matters and it matters now.

Go to:

<https://stjohnsbaydefenders.com/>

You can click on a blue "donate now" button to donate right away!

